

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /013 R

DRAFTED BY EA/RA-STAFF:GMD  
APPROVED BY EA/RA - HERBERT HOROWITZ  
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R 070000Z SEP 78  
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TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, PORG, SREF, XE

SUBJECT: EA/RA WEEKLY STATUS REPORT

TO: EA - MR. HOLBROOKE

FROM: EA/RA - HERBERT E. HOROWITZ

1. CHRISTOPHER GROUP MEETING, AUGUST 31 (LOU)

THE AUGUST 31 MEETING OF THE CHRISTOPHER GROUP DISCUSSED AID'S PRELIMINARY PROPOSALS FOR FY 80 DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AND PL 480 TITLE I. GIVEN THE PROVISIONAL NATURE OF THE AID PRESENTATION NO CONCLUSIONS OR RECOMMENDATIONS WERE ADOPTED.

GENERAL POINTS BROUGHT OUT IN THE DISCUSSIONS WERE, A) FY 80 DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE MAY BE ONLY 10 ABOVE THAT OF FY 79, B) THE AID "ENHANCEMENT" BUDGET, INTENDED TO ALLOW HIGH  
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PRIORITY PROJECTS WHICH MIGHT OTHERWISE BE DROPPED IN ADDITION TO THE BASIC PROPOSALS, IS ABOUT \$200 MILLION ABOVE THE OMB MARK. OMB STATED THAT FEWER FUNDS THAN ANTICIPATED MAY BE AVAILABLE AND RECOMMENDED THAT AID AND THE GEOGRAPHIC BUREAUS RANK ORDER THEIR VARIOUS PROPOSALS AND PREPARE

COUNTRY STRATEGY PAPERS DETAILING THE ROLES OF THE VARIOUS

ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE COMPONENTS.

BOB OAKLEY DEFENDED EA PROPOSALS FOR INDONESIA ON FOREIGN POLICY AND HUMAN RIGHTS GROUNDS AND THOSE FOR THE PHILIPPINES ON FOREIGN POLICY (BASE NEGOTIATIONS) AND BHN GROUNDS. PL 480 FOR KOREA WAS TOUCHED ON ONLY IN PASSING. HA OBJECTED TO THE PROJECTED SIZE OF THE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE INCREASE FOR INDONESIA, RECOMMENDING THE INCREASE BE HALVED. HA ALSO SUGGESTED ELIMINATING ALL PL 480 TITLE I ASSISTANCE TO THE PHILIPPINES AND TRIMMING DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO \$35 MILLION. AID IS SCHEDULED TO PRESENT ITS FORMAL PROPOSALS TO STATE THIS WEEK.

2. GA PREPARATIONS (LOU)

WE ARE CONTINUING OUR WORK ON HIGH LEVEL PARTICIPATION AT THE GA AND ARE EDGING CLOSER TO AN OVERALL EA SCHEDULE WITH THE SECRETARY. HOWEVER, MOST DATES AND TIMES HAVE YET TO BE SET AND SOME APPOINTMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN DENIED ARE PRESENTLY BEING APPEALED. AS FOR THE ASEAN FUNCTION, WE BELIEVE NOW THAT IT SHOULD BE A DINNER AND WE ARE PREPARING A TELEGRAM PROPOSING A FINAL DATE TO THE ASEAN COUNTRIES. - - - -

3. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR (DOL) INTEREST IN FACILITATING  
- EMPLOYMENT OF INDOCHINA REFUGEES IN THAILAND (UNCL.)  
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FOLLOWING AN EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN PATT DERIAN AND UNDER SECRETARY OF LABOR ROBERT BROWN, HA AND THE DOL BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL LABOR (ILAB) AND EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION (ETA) HAVE BEGUN DISCUSSIONS ON THE POSSIBILITIES FOR MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS TO RECRUIT LABOR FROM AMONG INDOCHINA REFUGEES NOW IN CAMPS IN THAILAND FOR WORK IN AREAS SUCH AS THE MIDDLE EAST. THE LABORERS WOULD BE SIGNED TO LIMITED-TERM AGREEMENTS AND WOULD RETURN TO THAILAND UPON COMPLETION OF THEIR CONTRACTS. SELECTION, TRAINING, HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION WOULD BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF HIRING CORPORATIONS. BENEFITS WOULD APPEAR TO BE A) THE CORPORATIONS WOULD HAVE ACCESS TO A LARGE POOL OF WILLING, EDUCABLE WORKERS, B) DEPENDING UPON THE NUMBERS INVOLVED, REFUGEE PRESSURES ON THAI SOCIETY MIGHT BE SOMEWHAT AMELIORATED, C) REMITTANCES TO WORKERS' FAMILIES WOULD BENEFIT THE REFUGEES AND THE THAI FOREIGN EXCHANGE POSITION ALIKE, D) RETURNING SKILLED AND SEMI-SKILLED WORKERS COULD ENRICH THAILAND'S LABOR RESOURCES OR THOSE OF AN ULTIMATE COUNTRY OF PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT.

SHEP LOWMAN OF HA FLOATED THE PROPOSAL IN BANGKOK IN

JULY AND IT RECEIVED A FAVORABLE INITIAL RESPONSE FROM  
RTG OFFICIALS. AS A RESULT OF ITS DISCUSSIONS WITH HA,  
DOL NOW PLANS TO DISCUSS THE IDEA IN GREATER DETAIL WITH  
POTENTIAL LABOR-SEEKING CORPORATIONS TO ASCERTAIN THE  
FEASIBILITY, THE PROBABLE NUMBERS INVOLVED, AND THE  
PERSONNEL PROCEDURES AND BACKSTOPPING WHICH WOULD BE  
NEEDED. IF THE PROGRAM APPEARS VIABLE, THE POSSIBILITY  
OF TURNING THE PROJECT OVER TO THE UNHCR WILL BE INVESTI-  
GATED. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** MARR, PORG, SREF, XE  
**To:** EA POSTS  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014